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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Drunk Driving Can Turn Halloween Into a Nightmare
6 DUI checkpoints and 50 patrols planned for weekend

Dover – Many people think of Halloween as only a child focused event, but over the years it has turned into one of the biggest party weekends of the year for adults. Unfortunately, when the partying involves alcohol, some adults still fail to make responsible choices and will get behind the wheel of a vehicle after drinking. In fact, nationally, 44% of all fatalities nationwide on Halloween night involve alcohol.

That's why the Office of Highway Safety is coordinating statewide stepped up enforcement of Delaware's impaired driving laws throughout the Halloween weekend. A total of 6 sobriety checkpoints and 50 DUI saturation patrols are planned for October 31st and November 1st. Last year, 46 people were arrested for DUI on Halloween weekend as a result of enforcement activities.

"We hope people will make more responsible choices, knowing that there will be police statewide looking for impaired drivers," said Lisa Shaw, DUI Program Coordinator for the Office of Highway Safety. "We are always particularly concerned about the risk for alcohol involved crashes when Halloween actually occurs on a weekend instead of in the middle of the week because it seems to add to the carnival atmosphere."

The following sobriety checkpoints are planned for Halloween weekend:

Friday October 31st - Wilmington – NcCo DUI Task Force
Georgetown – Georgetown PD
Saturday Nov. 1st - Smyrna – Smyrna/Clayton joint DUI checkpoint
Milford – Milford PD
Dover – Dover PD
Dover – DSP Troop 3

Additionally, 22 State, and local law enforcement agencies will be conducting roaming DUI saturation patrols looking for impaired drivers. These agencies include: Bethany Beach Police, Blades Police, Bridgeville Police, Camden Police, Cheswold Police, Clayton Police, Dewey Beach Police, Dover Police, Delaware State Police, Felton Police, Harrington Police, Laurel Police, Middletown Police, Milford Police, Millsboro Police, Milton Police, Ocean View Police, Rehoboth Beach Police, Seaford Police, Selbyville Police, Smyrna Police, Wyoming Police.

For a safer Halloween weekend, the Delaware Office of Highway Safety recommends these simple tips:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys; or Be a HERO. Be a Designated Driver yourself.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend, or family member so you are sure to get home safely;
- If you are in NcCo you can call the Delaware Designated Driver Program at (302) 999-9079 or (877) 999-9079 for a safe ride home; and the DAFB has its Airmen Against Drunk Driving (AADD) program for Base personnel
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to call 911

Since January 1st, of the 100 people killed in Delaware car crashes, 36 (or 36%) of those deaths were alcohol related. This is a decrease from this time last year, when 43 people (or 45% of the 96 people killed in crashes by Oct. 24th last year) died in impaired driving crashes. For more information about Delaware's efforts to combat DUI, visit the OHS website at www.ohs.delaware.gov and click on the *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign button.

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